

Family Environment and Juvenile Delinquency in Oran: A Field Study

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Abstract

This article aims at emphasizing the impact of family factors and social conditions on youth delinquency in the city of Oran, It revolves around two main points:

-the first discusses the dislocation of family relations and problems of socialization such as divorce, lack of religion faith and social, values.

-The second deals with the effects of poverty and poor social conditions on delinquency.

The article is based on the results of a field study involving one hundred delinquents in three reeducational centers of boys, girls and assisted childhood.

Keywords: delinquency, Juvenile delinquency, family factor, problems of socialization,

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Introduction

Juvenile delinquency has recently increased due to changes alien to the Algerian society. Perhaps it is the ten-year civil war¹, or changes in values upon which children were brought up. These factors influenced social structure and its institutions by weakening their roles. Family, as an institution in society, was no exception. Family has lost traditional role as an institution for morality and a unifying entity of its members to division and conflict amongst family members. Still, family remains a prerequisite as it prepares individuals for social life and protects them from threats imposed by society. Should it fail to function properly, juveniles would deviate from the norms and become themselves delinquents.

General atmosphere denotes danger and spread of juvenile of delinquency. Announced statistics do not provide true data of this phenomenon, they're neither accurate nor objective. That can be

concluded after a visit to police stations, pedestrian patients, rehabilitation facilities, streets, bus-stops, informal houses, traditional markets, etc. it is in these places that phenomenon can be observed. According to reports of police stations² and national guard, juveniles commit verisimilitude of crimes and delinquent behaviours, such as running off, assault on assets, homosexuality, temptation for adultery, robbery, assaults, theft, addiction to drug, brothels, illegal immigration, kidnapping minors, etc. these juvenile acts do not correspond with the revealed statistics, neither do they communicate the gravity of the issue. Juvenile delinquency has thrust a hole into the structure of our society, and it requires immediate intervention of specialists, officials, and researchers to collect, analyse, and interpret data to arrive at full understanding of juvenile delinquency and the danger it poses on our societies. Subsequently, solutions, strategies and recommendations should be concluded to extinguish it, with support of society and family. Juvenile care centers do not present a definitive or remedial solution for all cases; they lack expertise and programmes necessary to help delinquents blend in society. They have become institutions of incarceration of juveniles without rehabilitation.

Our study aims at unveiling findings of field investigation conducted on a 100 life cases distributed on three facilities specialised in surveillance and re-education of juvenile delinquents for males (located in Djamaledine street), for females (located in Siddiqiya), and for pedestrian patients (located in Tirigo). It is worth noting that 1 to 7 % refused to answer the questions provided. All data and rates are annexed to the study. Therefore, we base our analysis on the findings of our study that are concluded from the field. We do not reside or elaborate on theory, as the aim of our study lies in providing findings that signify the prerequisites of family environment may lead to juvenile delinquency. It is, we believe, an advantage to our study that much research indicates that 70% to 90% juvenile delinquents come from family risk environment where there are parental conflicts and divisions amongst family members.

Problematics of the study:

This study investigates how family environment and socioeconomic factors lead to juvenile delinquency. The study dives into specifics of family environment that nurtures and look after juveniles. We pose the questions of how juveniles resort to delinquency. How do they become so? Does upbringing of juveniles determine their fate? Does parental conflict contribute to juvenile delinquency? Does financial hardship contribute as well? We aim to arrive at an understanding of juvenile delinquency by limiting it to two main variables: family environment as the independent variable, and juvenile delinquency as the dependent variable. It follows from that that family environment explains or causes juvenile delinquency.

We assume that the main issue lies in family environment, specifically parents' division, typically manifested in the fracture of social relationships. This is evident in various forms such as divorce, separation, abandonment, leaving home, or death. These manifestations imply a collapse in family unity and a dissolution of the social roles entrusted to them, negatively impacting the

proper upbringing of the child. Neglect of the child and their social relationships tends to prevail, as parents are preoccupied with work or their own personal problems. The absence of supervision, guidance, and strong religious values, along with incorrect parenting styles (whether through the use of violence, harshness, or excessive indulgence), drive the child towards deviant and delinquent behaviors. However, we should not overlook the fact that financial hardship low wages, unemployment, debility to provide for the family, and the complete or partial inability to meet the basic needs of the family lead to juvenile delinquency. All of these factors contribute to the child lacking stability and a healthy family environment that satisfies their psychological and social needs. Consequently, the child becomes susceptible to engaging in delinquent behaviors.

In order to recognise the extent to which family environment, economic hardship, socioeconomic factors contribute to juvenile delinquency in Oran, we provided a detailed study on family risk environment and social problems that connects parents to juveniles and the rest of family members. We also considered upbringing of the child as a factor that may (or not) lead to delinquency. The afore mentioned particularities lead to covering factors that result in delinquency which paves the way for remedial and constructive recommendations.

We have deconstructed the problem into several sub-questions in order to measure the level of contribution of family factors in the production of delinquent behavior among children in the city of Oran. The sub-questions are as follows:

- 1- To what extent do **social factors** (education, school dropout, occupation, time spent in or outside the house, and negative peer influence), **psychological** (fear, depression, anxiety, etc.) and **physical** (chronical diseases, disfigurement, physical disability) contribute to juvenile delinquency?
- 2- What is the level of contribution of the personal characteristics of the parents (such as age, educational level, occupation, excessive nervousness, mental and physical illnesses or disabilities, geographic mobility, etc.) in the production of delinquency among juveniles?
- 3- To what extent does family risk environment lead to juvenile delinquency? We ask the following sub-questions to answer this question:
 - What is the level of contribution of familial disintegration and social fragmentation, evident in cases of marital dissolution (divorce), parental death, abandonment, and household departure, in the etiology of delinquency among children?
 - To what extent does parental discord and power dynamics influence the manifestation of delinquency within the household?
 - What is the magnitude of the disruption in social bonds among family members and its impact on delinquent behavior?
 - How does lack of religious and moral values among the delinquent juveniles and other family members contribute to the production of delinquency?

- To what extent do deviant and delinquent behaviors of family members contribute to the reproduction of delinquency among the delinquent child?
- 4- What is the level of contribution of parenting style and treatment in the production of delinquency among juveniles? This can be examined by answering the following questions:
 - To what extent does the caretaker responsible for the upbringing of the juvenile contribute to their deviant behavior?
 - What is the level of contribution of differential treatment, favoritism, and indulgence in parental interactions towards their children in their deviant behaviors?
 - What is the level of contribution of running off to the delinquency of juveniles?
 - What is the level of contribution of expulsion from home to the delinquency of juveniles?
 - To what extent does the lack of affection and love from family members towards the juvenile contribute to their deviant behavior?
- 5- To what extent do economic hardship and low living standards contribute/ lead to juvenile delinquency? We consider the following aspects,
 - Family size: number of people living in the same house.
 - House size and condition: the size of house and whether or not it is big enough
 - Neighbourhood: whether or not it is friendly.
 - Financial income.

Sample selection

The study rests on a 100-life case distributed on three facilities. We could not calculate the population study given the difficulties encountered to limit it. we aimed to include every available case within these facilities based on predetermined criteria, such as the age of the delinquent (less than 19 years old), for both genders.

-Oran was selected as a location for the study for it has facilities for rehabilitation for males in Djamaledine neighbourhood, for females in Sidiqiya, and for pedestrian patients in Tirigo. These locations were selected for they meet the following criteria:

- The facilities provide live realistic cases and include delinquent juveniles who have committed various offenses and have been sentenced by juvenile court judges for a specific period based on the issued judgments and the nature of the committed offenses. They are not allowed to leave the premises (indicating the presence of a coercive element to stay in the facility). Others are placed under strict supervision despite being allowed to stay with their families (referring to the juveniles affiliated to the Terigo center and those subject to monitoring).

-The selected facilities continuously receive juvenile delinquents from different parts of Algeria because they are located in Oran (capital of the West) downtown. This, perhaps, explains why parents choose these facilities.

-The selection of male and female indicators was not intended for a gender comparison but rather to include the largest possible number of delinquents, whether male or female. For us, both genders are equal, and we are only interested in similar cases involving the commission of offenses.

-As for the pedestrian patients, it also monitors delinquent juveniles who have been sentenced by a judge. However, the difference is that they are placed under strict supervision by the facility and its staff while families are allowed to stay with their juveniles.

-Considering all these indicators and our commitment to the principle of diversity within the research community, we considered the juveniles affiliated with these facilities as a suitable society for study and an excellent sample for the overall research community. This is particularly due to the rate of referring to both facilities. The male center receives approximately 400 delinquents annually, ranging in age from 10 to 19 years old. As for the female center, it has around 30 delinquents with ages ranging from 12 to 19 years old, but it also receives approximately 120 delinquent females annually. The total number of juveniles monitored by the facility for pedestrian patients is unknown, and the figures remain variable.

-All the delinquent juveniles in these centers are divided into four categories according to the nature of the offenses committed: Juveniles who have committed minor offenses, juveniles who have committed multiple offenses, juveniles who are at moral risk and homeless juveniles.

-It is worth noting that we do not aspire to make our sample a "representative sample" of the total population of delinquent juveniles in all Oran. This would require a significant amount of time and effort and it is challenging, if not impossible, especially in the absence of accurate statistical data on the phenomenon. Therefore, the results obtained only pertain to the specific group under study and the three facilities from which these cases were selected. We recommend that our findings not to be generalised.

-Questionnaires were distributed to the selected facilities, and we personally ensured they are filled out. For cases that were inaccessible, staff of pedestrian patients took responsibility for filling out some of the questionnaires in the juveniles' homes. As a result, certain questions remained unanswered (with an average ranging from 1% to 7%). The data collection process was also marked by interruptions and occasional delays due to a lack of control over the variables within the specified study centers. Often, we would commence with the delinquent individual and subsequently seek the necessary information, only to find them unavailable. Consequently, numerous incomplete questionnaires had to be invalidated, resulting in a substantial loss of effort and time. This, in turn, led to a significant deficit in certain data points.

-Selecting the study journals and narrowing down the sample in this manner, we have effectively fulfilled the purpose and met the predetermined criteria and indicators. This approach aligns with the research methodology and examination process, which will assist us in understanding

and comprehending the various dimensions of the phenomenon, as well as diagnosing the specific factors contributing to the occurrence and exacerbation of juvenile delinquency.

The Concept of Juvenile Delinquency

Society perceives delinquency as behavioural patterns that deviate from the norms and standards of conduct prevalent in society, these behavioural patterns of juveniles are, in comparison to norms, negative. Juvenile delinquency manifests as a complex phenomenon given the overlap of the factors that lead to it. Dr. Daw defines it as “ the act of a juvenile committing a crime such as theft, assault, or murder...etc., and it is considered a severe deviation. The juvenile who commits such acts is referred to as a delinquent and should be brought to trial and placed in a correctional institution.²”. He also states that “deviance of the juvenile is manifested in behaviors that are inconsistent with societal norms, involving mere misbehavior such as truancy, associating with delinquent peers, lying...etc. ³These behaviors are considered deviant. According to psychoanalysts, the deviant juvenile is the one whose desires for pleasure supersede the restrictions of higher self, or in other words, the one in whom instinctual drives and desires overpower correct social values and traditions.⁴”. researcher Bowidi states that “social changes that were imposed on families lead to delinquency⁵”.

Initially, we support the pluralistic approach in dealing with juvenile delinquency, which excludes the singular factor leading to juvenile delinquency. Instead, it is the result of the interaction of various factors (psychological, social, economic, biological, etc.). The delinquent juvenile cannot be viewed in isolation from their specific environment. Each one influences and is influenced by the other, which explains the complexity and interconnectedness of the phenomenon. However, we tend to stress family environment and the social and economic conditions associated with the family as major factors. Factors such as parenting style, family disintegration, deviance, delinquency, and criminality within the family, weak religious values, and limited living standards, etc. lead to juvenile delinquency. The main hypothesis is the lack of a cohesive family environment that can fulfill the various social and economic needs of the juvenile or child.

Accurate and objective studies reveal that family environment is the main source of delinquency amongst juveniles. Delinquency is a social construction even if takes different forms, as there is no society devoid of delinquency. This view is supported by, and many other, sociologist Emile Durkheim in his understanding of crime. In fact, he considers it a healthy and necessary phenomenon for the well-being of a functioning society, an inseparable part of any sound community. We do not aim to wrestle with complications of theory; rather, we aim to emphasise the importance of family environment as a factor leading to delinquency. Juvenile delinquency is a manifestation of deconstruction and disintegration of social system, including family as an institution within this structure. Family environment should/cocoons juveniles and it is itself influenced by social and economic factors. As such, we are led to bring to the fore socioeconomic

factors as an approach to understand juvenile delinquency. We hypothesise that it is the main factor leading to juvenile delinquency. The main objective remains recognising the family environment and socioeconomic factors that lead to juvenile delinquency, without overlooking other elements that potentially lead to it.

A number of social studies focus their analyses on family environment and the influence they can exert in society. Like other children, delinquent juveniles are often born into and grow up within social and economic circumstances associated with the family. These circumstances, whether positive or negative, shape them. Family remains the primary environment that nurtures, raises, supports, and protects the child. It is also responsible for molding their behavior, which can either conform to societal norms or deviate from norms, standards, and traditions of society. Accordingly, juveniles find themselves alienated from society and rejected as a result of their delinquency. This social status leads to aggression and makes juveniles prone for deviance and delinquency. Researcher Laghach attributes delinquency to 1) debility of juvenile to form healthy, or even normal, relationships as a result of psychological disturbances and failure to blend in, and accordingly, 2) aggressive attitude of the juvenile as a result of social rejection⁶. Dr. Dawri believes, in a study of his of cause of crimes, that “family environment is a vast arena where many social, economic, and cultural variables conflict; it is the ground where delinquency and virtue are matured⁷”.

It is not our intention, surely to cast all evils on family environment, as it can be an outcome of a failed system that lacks vision and a unifying set of values that establishes for healthy growth of generations. Ethical, legal and social values should be preserved through this system. Nevertheless, we reckon that family environment should be spotlighted and exhibit the ways in which it contributes to juvenile delinquency.

Data Analysis

Study findings: we present the finding of the study as follow:

Our study contains a number of variables that pertain to juveniles as study population, variables such as sex, age, educational level, neighbourhood, year of starting school, year of leaving school, psychological disturbances, chronic diseases, physical disability, disfigurement, committed offence, manner of committing offence, initial delinquent act. Accordingly, characteristics of juveniles in the study population can be summarised as follows:

The most important conclusion drawn from this study is that no factor has exclusive influence; rather, many overlapping aspects lead to juvenile delinquency. There is no singular factor that can absolutely determine the production of deviant behavior at a rate of 100%. This confirms the pluralistic perspective, as the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency is the result of the interaction of several factors that vary in their strength and control depending on their interaction with the juvenile and their environment. All the assumed factors in this study have been realized to

varying degrees: some have been strongly and dominantly realized, such as the factor of homeless juveniles, which has been decisively realised at approximately 98%, while others have been realized weakly. Therefore, we present the summarised field results as follows:

First, Personal Traits of the Juveniles and Their Parents As Factors Leading to Juvenile Delinquency.

1- Personal Traits of Juveniles:

a- The primary distinguishing characteristics of juveniles of the study can be summerised in the following points:

- The dominant age-gap ranges from 16 to 18 years, representing 58% of the total study participants. This age group is critical as it indicates the period of adolescence complexities associated with it.
- Males commit more offences than females, which cover 58% of the participants. This suggests a greater inclination of males towards delinquency compared to females.
- The areas that exhibit the highest production and prevalence of juvenile delinquency in this study are found informal housing, occupying the first position with 37%. They are followed by urban areas at 31%, semi-urban areas in the third position at 29%, and finally rural areas at 3%.

-As for the nature of the committed delinquencies, they are represented by the following figures:

- 39% of the total study participants were involved in theft, which occupies the first position in the ranking of offenses.
- Assault with a bladed weapon comes in second place, representing 19% of the offenses.
- Homosexuality ranks third at 15%.
- Finally, drug-related offenses account for 9% of the total.

These figures indicate the severity of the committed offenses and the level of deviance ingrained in the personalities of these individuals, which may pose challenges in the rehabilitation process and the difficulty of integrating them into society.

-Juveniles were sentenced and served the following periods of time: 14% served less than three months, 47% served 3 to 6 months, 29% served a period of a whole year. It is prerequisite to emphasise the seriousness of keeping delinquent individuals in correctional or rehabilitation facilities or under supervision. This exposes them to greater risks, such as becoming acquainted with other crimes and offenses through interaction, especially with the category characterized by the seriousness of the committed offenses and deviant behaviors that violate ethics, including sexual deviance. This factor plays a crucial role in solidifying delinquency within the individual and transferring it to others who may have no prior involvement or knowledge of such offenses.

-48% of the total study population engaged in delinquency individually, while 43% committed them collectively. This indicates that the majority engaged in delinquent acts voluntarily, but the influence of peers and groups remain a significant factor in understanding their motivation to commit these offenses. Moreover, the results indicate that 37% of the total studied juveniles engaged in collective delinquency with the participation of an adult offender, while only 6% responded negatively. This means that the presence of an adult offender within the peer group of young individuals inevitably influences them and leads them towards deviant behaviors.

-63% of the total study participants committed these offenses for the first time, while 33% engaged in repeated offenses, distributed as follows: 16% committed the offenses three times, 15% committed them twice, and 2% committed them four times. This means that 63% can be classified as primary offenders, while 33% represent the category of multiple offenders who have developed a habit of engaging in delinquent behavior and have become accustomed to it.

-52% of the total study population committed initial delinquent act when they were between the ages of 14 and 16 at the time of their first conviction. This age group is the most prevalent and represents adolescence, which is characterized by proclivity for taking risks, difficulty of dealing with them, and potential slip-ups. It requires a great deal of caution and vigilance in monitoring juveniles during this complex age.

b- distinguishes the educational aspect can be summarized as follows:

-The dominant group consists of 93% of the total study participants who have received education. They enrolled in school at the legally specified age for registration and entry into the educational system in Algeria. In contrast, a very small percentage of 7% are not educated. Therefore, the contribution of the lack of education as a factor in the production of delinquency among the participants is very weak, not exceeding 7% of the total. There is a correlation between the educational qualification and the age group of the participants. The majority of the study participants, 58%, have a average educational qualification. If we consider the age group between 16 and 18 years, 58% of the participants, we can conclude that the majority of the educated juveniles faced difficulties in reaching the secondary level of education, which presents only 7% in this study.

-The study findings indicate that 67% of the total study population exhibit a recurring pattern of truancy, commonly known as "repeated school escape." Moreover, a significant majority of 58% experienced academic failure, which highlights the challenges they encountered in their educational journey. Additionally, a substantial portion of the study population, accounting for 53%, expressed strong aversion towards school, indicating a lack of enthusiasm and readiness for academic pursuits. For this particular group, education is perceived as an unfavorable aspect of their lives. Notably, a study conducted in Algeria in 2005 revealed a concerning result:

approximately 500,000 adolescents dropping out of schools. The study also established a link between violence, learning difficulties, and the occurrence of school dropout.

-The main reasons that led the participants to discontinue attending school can be summarized as follows:

- Expulsion: This factor accounted for 38% of the cases and represented the dominant category. Students who were expelled from school faced challenges in continuing their education.
 - Influence of Peers: The influence of friends ranked second at 27%. Peer pressure and influence played a significant role in deterring students from attending school regularly.
 - Need and Poverty: The need for financial support and poverty were factors affecting 17% of the participants, placing it in the third position. Economic constraints and the inability to meet basic needs impacted their ability to continue their education.
 - Compelled Withdrawal: Approximately 11% of the participants cited being forced or coerced to leave school against their will, placing it in the fourth position.
- c- The contribution of work to the delinquency of the participants was relatively minimal, accounting for only 9% of the total study participants.

This subset of participants engaged in various types of work, with 7% work as shop assistants, or trading, activities, and 2% engaged in welding. Furthermore, this working group started at an early age, with 6% of them working at the age of 14 and 3% at a younger age. Most of these occupations primarily revolved around selling various goods in order to earn money. It was found that 6% of participants were motivated by their mothers, while 3% were motivated by their fathers to engage in these work activities.

d- The contribution of psychological and physical characteristics to delinquency among the participants is present but not dominant, and sometimes weak. The following observations were made:

- 39% of the participants exhibited psychological symptoms, distributed as follows: 24% experienced chronic anxiety, 11% had fears and nightmares, and 4% suffered from depression and frustration.
- 21% of the participants had organic diseases, evenly distributed as follows: 7% had respiratory conditions, 7% had kidney diseases, and 7% had various other illnesses.
- Only 3% of the participants had facial deformities, while the rest were unaffected (93%). This indicates a weak representation of this factor in contributing to delinquency among the participants. 20% of the total study participants had experienced serious illnesses during childhood or at an early age, with an equal distribution between asthma and fever.
- 30% of the participants had experienced loneliness during their childhood.
- 23% had experienced prolonged parental absence.

All of these factors contribute to psychological distress in juveniles and may lead to the development of psychological complexities and imbalances in their personality. This could impair their ability to self-regulate, differentiate between right and wrong, and make them more prone to deviant behaviors. Therefore, these factors collectively explain delinquency among the participants within the represented category.

2- The Influence of Personal Traits of Parents:

a- The contribution of age gap between parents (mothers and fathers) in shaping delinquency among adolescents is noteworthy.

-A significant majority of mothers are younger in age compared to their spouses by at least a decade. Specifically, 75% of mothers fall within the age range of 41 to 50 years, whereas only 29% of fathers fit within this category. Moreover, 11% of mothers are aged between 30 and 40 years, contrasting with 3% of fathers in the same age range. Additionally, only 14% of mothers are above the age of 50, while this figure rises to 31% for fathers. The age disparity between parents potentially reflects differing perspectives on child-rearing and upbringing, leading to generational conflicts in various aspects of life, which negatively impact the adolescent. Thus, the intergenerational age gap serves as a potent explanatory factor in understanding the phenomenon of delinquency among the represented cohort. It is worth noting that 74% of fathers are older than 40 years, with the breakdown as follows: 31% aged between 51 and 60, 29% aged between 41 and 50, and 1% above 60. Conversely, only 3% of fathers fall within the 30 to 40 age range, and 21% are deceased. As for mothers, 75% are aged between 41 and 50, 12% fall between 51 and 60, and a small minority of less than 2% are between 61 and 70 years old.

B- The limited or lack of educational among parents significantly contributes to delinquency among adolescents.

This factor is more prevalent among mothers, accounting for 65% of cases. Specifically, 34% of mothers have only completed primary education, 31% are illiterate, 19% have secondary education, 7% have a university degree, and 2% did not provide a response. In comparison, fathers exhibit a slightly lower percentage at 52%. Among fathers, 34% have an elementary education, 18% are completely illiterate, 16% have secondary education, 2% have a university degree, and 21% of the fathers are deceased. The limited educational background of parents can hinder their openness to modern educational approaches that keep pace with societal changes. This creates an obstacle to providing a nurturing environment for adolescents and may contribute to the development of deviant behaviors.

C- Regarding the contribution of parental occupation to delinquency among adolescents, precise information about the specific nature of their professions is unavailable.

However, we were able to identify the socio-occupational category to which the parents belong. The figures indicate that 27% of fathers fall into the executive category, 10% are retired, 31%

engage in any available work to sustain their livelihoods, and 21% are deceased. These figures amount to 89% of individuals who are positioned at the lower end of the social ladder or are entirely absent from it. As for mothers, 74% are unemployed and stay at home, and even those who work belong to the executive category, representing 22% of the total. Therefore, the majority of mothers also belong to the lower end of the social ladder, similar to fathers. This suggests a significant alignment between the occupational status of both parents, characterized by engaging in socioeconomically disadvantaged occupations, such as manual labor and low-paying executive positions. This implies a decreased purchasing power and an inability to meet essential family needs, highlighting the strong influence of this factor in explaining the studied phenomenon.

D- The contribution of parental mental and physical illnesses, as well as permanent disabilities, to delinquency among adolescents has been examined in this study.

The results indicate a weak association, with the following findings: 15% of the participants reported that one or both parents displayed psychological symptoms (12% for fathers and 3% for mothers). Additionally, 15% mentioned excessive nervousness, and 21% reported that one or both parents had organic diseases (11% for fathers and 10% for mothers). However, the occurrence of permanent disabilities was completely absent in this study. Despite the relatively low percentages, these factors, particularly parental mental illness and anxiety, remain significant. They can lead to confusion and internal conflicts within the affected individuals, hindering their ability to maintain balance and make sound judgments regarding right and wrong. This, in turn, can have a detrimental impact on the proper upbringing of the child, potentially exposing them to deviant behaviors and misguided actions.

Second, Family Environment as a Factor Leading to Juvenile Delinquency

1- The contribution of improper parenting styles, whether associated with authoritarian parenting or submissive parenting, in shaping delinquency among adolescents, as well as a dysfunction in child-rearing practices, has been investigated. This was achieved through the examination of the following proportions:

A percentage of the total study population, raised individually or in a uniparental manner, was examined in the following distribution: 40% were solely raised by the mother, 12% were solely raised by the grandfather, and 9% were solely raised by the father. In contrast, only 39% received upbringing through the joint involvement of both the father and mother. This indicates a dominant group of individuals who receive single and uniparental upbringing, whether from the mother, grandfather, or father. Here, the factor of individual upbringing emerges as a primary explanatory factor for the phenomenon of delinquency among adolescents.

-The study reveals significant findings regarding the treatment and upbringing of adolescents. It shows that 42% of the participants experience harsh treatment from their fathers, while 12%

receive excessive leniency. Similarly, 14% of the mothers employ harsh parenting methods, while 25% exhibit excessive indulgence towards their children.

-Furthermore, a concerning 69% of the participants report receiving severe physical punishment from their parents when they make mistakes, compared to only 31% who receive constructive advice and guidance. Disturbingly, 14% of the adolescents have experienced expulsion from home, with fathers (7%), the mother's partner (5%), and the father's partner (2%) being responsible for this harsh measure.

-These findings highlight the prevalence of unbalanced parenting styles, characterized by both harshness and indulgence. It is essential to emphasize a balanced and moderate approach in raising adolescents, avoiding extremes of harshness, violence, physical punishment, as well as excessive leniency and spoiling. The study underscores the negative consequences of authoritarian and submissive parenting on adolescents, as they are more prone to delinquency and criminal behavior. Harsh punishment, accompanied by verbal and physical aggression from parents, contributes to the development of maladaptive and non-adaptive aggressive behavior in children. This disrupts family dynamics and often leads to disturbed, deviant, and delinquent behavior among adolescents.⁹

-As a result of experiencing harsh and violent treatment from parents, it is certain that juveniles will be deeply affected, leading to aggressive behaviours. It is known that every act of violence gives rise to a corresponding counter violence, matching it in intensity and degree. This exposes juveniles to engaging in deviant and criminal behaviors. Similarly, an overly indulged adolescent, who lacks boundaries or red flags and is accustomed to having their demands met constantly due to excessive parental indulgence, also tends to engage in deviant behaviors, deviations, and a disregard for societal norms.

- Indeed, 61% of the total study population stated that they receive unfair treatment in their interactions with siblings, which creates feelings of resentment, hatred, and a desire for revenge. We find that 48% of the study participants rank last among their siblings, while 48% feel somewhat accepted, and 21% feel excluded and completely ignored, lacking any position among their siblings. In contrast, 24% feel indulged, and 15% feel accepted. This means that 69% of those who feel excluded and the partially accepted group perceive differential and unfair treatment from their parents to such an extent that some even state their insignificance compared to their siblings in the eyes of their parents. Therefore, this factor of differential treatment among children and the lack of fair care and attention among siblings becomes a dominant factor leading to juvenile delinquency, as it generates feelings of resentment, hatred, and aggression towards both parents and siblings. Conversely, 24% of the participants state that they are indulged, indicating that indulgence is a factor that explains the phenomenon within its represented group.

- This has negatively influenced the behaviors and actions of juveniles, as 36% of the total study participants state that they resorted to running away from home as an inevitable result of the neglect, violence, and harshness they experience from their parents. This factor particularly leads adolescents to remain in the streets, associating with others who engage in deviant behaviors and lack supervision or control. Consequently, this further pushes them towards engaging in deviant behaviors and committing crimes, partially explaining the phenomenon of adolescent delinquency.

-The harsh treatment experienced by juveniles has negative consequences on their behavior and attitudes. A significant portion of the study participants (36%) reported running away from home as a result of neglect, violence, and harshness from their parents. This contributes to their inclination to stay on the streets, associating with individuals who engage in deviant behaviors, leading to further delinquent actions and crime. Additionally, the harsh treatment from parents also leads to a lukewarm or diminished affection towards the father, as 69% of the participants expressed only partial love or no love at all for their fathers. This suggests a weak or absent emotional bond between the adolescents and their fathers, leading to feelings of resentment, hatred, and a desire for revenge not only towards the father but also towards others. This emotional gap between the father and the adolescent becomes a dominant factor in explaining the phenomenon. On the other hand, the mother often compensates for the emotional deprivation caused by the father's harsh treatment, as 76% of the participants expressed strong feelings of love and affection towards their mothers. This may lead the adolescents to seek emotional support from their mothers, finding solace and compensation for the emotional deprivation they experience from their fathers.

-According to the study findings, 69% of the total participants assessed their level of love for their fathers as "somewhat" (63%) or "little" (6%), while 16% reported having no love or affection towards their fathers. In contrast, only 13% rated their love for their fathers as "great." These results indicate a weak or absent emotional bond between juveniles and their fathers, as represented by the majority of the study participants (85%). This widens the emotional gap and disconnect between the father and the juvenile. It is a natural consequence when adolescents receive such harsh treatment from their fathers and are not given any attention.

-Consequently, they develop distinct negative emotions such as resentment, hatred, and a desire for revenge, not only towards the father but also towards others. This factor becomes a dominant element in explaining the phenomenon. Similarly, we find that the mother's situation contrasts with that of the father. About 76% of the study participants expressed intense feelings of love and affection towards their mothers. This, at least to some extent, compensates for the emotional deprivation experienced from the father. Therefore, the adolescents may seek solace and compensation from their mothers, finding what they lack emotionally from their fathers.

2- Family Risk Environment as a Factor Leading to Juvenile Delinquency. Division between parents and deviance within family obtained the following results:

a- Cases of separation in their various forms (divorce, death, migration, or leaving home due to emergencies, etc.) reveal the following: 21% of fathers are deceased, 16% of parents are separated (14% divorced and 2% separated due to the father's remarriage), while 43% are not separated.

Out of the total events studied, 56% of the relationship between parents is characterized by control and submission, 21% by conflict and arguments, and only 20% by cooperation. This means that 77% of their parents' interactions are marked by either fighting and conflict or control and submission, lacking a natural relationship. Within the study's juveniles, 70% of the power dynamics in the household are dominated by the mother, while 21% involve the father, 4% the stepfather, and 5% the grandfather. The higher percentage of maternal authority can be attributed to widowed mothers who have lost their husbands, 21% of deceased fathers. Overall, such distinctive characteristics of the parental social relationship undoubtedly create an environment conducive to deviant behaviour. They disrupt the established mechanisms and controls of the conceptual and cultural values system in the child, inevitably pushing them towards deviant behaviour.

-Father spends the night outside the home. If we add the percentage of deceased fathers, which is 21% (representing complete and permanent absence of the father), the combined percentage becomes 86%. This dominant category is characterized by either complete or partial absence of the father, which explains the juvenile's deviation from norms and disobedience to fathers. The father's presence in a child's upbringing is considered an important factor for the well-being of society, as it represents a crucial aspect of the environmental variables influencing children's and adolescents' prevailing behaviour. On the other hand, there are also 25% of mothers who remain outside the home throughout the day due to their work. This factor alone is sufficient to explain juvenile's deviation from the supervision that the mother is supposed to provide. This absence is reflected on the child's upbringing, and all of this leads to freedom from parents' control and supervision, which provides the juvenile with an appropriate environment for staying in the streets, accompanying negative peers, and engaging in deviant behaviours.

b- The assumption of staying in the streets is almost decisively fulfilled, as 98% of the respondents stated that they stay outside the home in the streets for long hours without supervision.

Among them, 41% stay for several hours, more than half of the day, 37% stay for the entire day, and 20% stay for half of the day. Additionally, 47% of the total juvenile studied stay outside the home after 8 pm (33% stay until midnight, 3% stay until 2 am, and 11% stay overnight). Staying outside the home strongly contributes to creating conducive conditions for engaging in delinquent activities, making it a crucial factor in explaining the phenomenon of deviance among

the juveniles in this study, especially at nights. the results also indicate that 53% of the respondents spend their leisure time in the streets, 27% watch television, 4% use the internet, and 7% spend it in other unspecified places.

c- Division among Family member as a factor leading to juvenile delinquency.

-76% referred to their affection towards siblings as 'somewhat,' while only 2% describe it as 'little,' and 10% claim to have no love for their siblings. In contrast, 11% attribute a high degree of love in their relationship with siblings. Furthermore, 51% of the total juveniles studied perceive this relationship as 'normal,' whereas 28% describe it as marked by conflict, arguments, and discord. Only 20% characterize it with empathy, indicating a weakened and diminished emotional bond among siblings.

-58% of the total juveniles studied describe the family's relationship with relatives as 'normal,' while 9% perceive it as 'poor,' and 9% consider it to be 'non-existent,' leaving only 23% describing it as 'good.' 15% of the total juveniles studied experience interference from relatives in crucial family decisions and matters. Uncles (mother's brother) occupy the highest level of interference at 7%, followed by grandparents at 5%, and the uncle (father's brother) ranks third at only 2%. Moreover, 13% of the total juveniles studied allow relatives to intervene in their affairs, while only 2% do not permit such interference. The primary reason for allowing relative intervention is poverty and need, representing 8%, followed by the parents' weak personality at 5%. Overall, these findings indicate a weak bond, both among siblings and between the family and relatives.

d- Negative peer association as a factor leading to juvenile delinquency

-A total of 84% of the events studied have friends, representing the dominant category, while 16% are not concerned with having friends. The distribution of number of these friendships is as follows: 40% have 2 to 4 friends, 22% have more than 7 friends, 20% have only one friend, and 2% have between 5 and 7 friends. This indicates that those having many friends tend to have deviant behaviours, as the majority have more than one friend (64%).

- The personal characteristics associated with these friends can be summerised as follows: 35% of the friends do not attend school. 53% of the juvenile's friends engage in smoking, drinking alcohol, and drug abuse. 33% of the total juveniles studied participate in these behaviours (smoking, drinking alcohol, and drug abuse) with these friends. 39% of the total juveniles studied have friends who are older than them. 84% of the total juveniles studied have friends who reside in the same area, representing the entire relevant category. This indicates that the factor of the neighborhood and environment is a decisive factor in influencing deviant behavior among them.

-18% of the total juveniles studied have friends who exhibit criminal behaviour and engage in delinquency, while 66% of the juveniles' friends are not involved in criminal activities. It is worth mentioning that 16% of the juveniles do not have any friends (making the category of those not concerned about crime equivalent to 82% of the total). This indicates the limited impact of this factor in leading juveniles to crime and delinquency, but it remains significant in explaining the phenomenon for this population.

-The types of crimes committed are distributed as follows in percentage terms: 12% of them were involved in property theft (4% car theft, 4% home burglary, and 4% shoplifting), while 6% did not engage in this particular type of crime but committed other offenses. 16% of their friends resorted to violence, assault, and the use of weapons, while 2% did not commit this type of crime but engaged in other offenses. 5% were involved in sexual assault, while 13% were not concerned with this type of criminal activity. 3% were involved in drug trafficking, while 15% were not concerned with it. 13% of the total events studied have friends with criminal records, meaning they have been convicted, while 5% denied having such friends.

The category of friends associated with criminal behavior has been involved in crimes of significant severity, encompassing a range of offenses such as various forms of theft, utilization of bladed weapons, illicit drug trafficking, and sexual assault. These findings reaffirm the influence of this factor, namely the influence of delinquent companions, in engendering juvenile delinquency. However, it is noteworthy that the impact remains confined to the specific subset represented by this category, particularly when considering that 13% of the juveniles, within the 18% cohort, actively partook in the same criminal activities as their friends.

d- Lack of religious values amongst parents as a factor leading to juvenile delinquency.

-41% of parents do not pray either together or individually (including 20% who do not pray together, 4% where the mother does not pray, and 17% where the father does not pray). This signifies the absence of the second pillar in Islamic identity and the fundamental aspect of nurturing children's commitment to prayer and attending mosques. Praying carries profound meanings as it deters individuals from indecency and abominable acts while protecting them from deviant behaviours.

-A total of 21% of the study participants (18% for the father and 2% for both parents) declared that their parents do not adhere to the third pillar of Islam, which is fasting. This indicates that these juveniles have been raised with disregard of the noble values and meanings that fasting provides, and denied the blessed month of Ramadan. Consequently, the individuals are exposed to a devaluation of these values and ethical standards, leading to permissiveness towards everything.

e- Delinquency amongst family members as a factor leading to juvenile delinquency.

Behavioural and moral degradation factors, such as drug and alcohol addiction, among parents and siblings, significantly contribute to the phenomenon. This is evident in the following statistics from the study: 19% of the total study participants have family members who consume alcohol (14% involving the father and 5% involving siblings). 11% of the total study participants have family members who engage in drug abuse (7% involving the father, 3% involving siblings, and 1% involving step fathers). 11% of the total study participants have family members who have committed crimes (6% involving the father, 2% involving brothers, and 3% involving sisters). All of them have been convicted and received prison sentences. **These findings suggest that the family environment characterized by deviance and criminal behavior inevitably reproduces same outcome, thus contributing to the development of the phenomenon within the represented proportions.**

Third, Economic Hardship and Low Income as a Factor Leading to Juvenile Delinquency.

a- The low economic status contributes to the deviant behavior of the individuals, as the majority of parents either receive low wages or have no income at all due to the father's death or unemployment.

-The figures indicate that approximately 62% of the total participants' fathers belong to the lower class. Among them, 41% of fathers earn extremely low wages, not exceeding 15,000 Algerian dinars (belonging to the "execution" class), and 21% of fathers are deceased, meaning they have no income at all. In contrast, only 11% of fathers receive wages ranging from 16,000 to 20,000 Algerian dinars, and only 25% of fathers earn more than 25,000 Algerian dinars.

-Similarly, the same applies to the mothers, as 74% of the total study participants' mothers have no financial income and are unemployed. Even among the 24% who are employed, they belong to the lower class (the "execution" class), earning very limited wages, not exceeding 15,000 Algerian dinars. This explains the parents' inability to meet their children's basic needs related to food, clothing, healthcare, and especially education. Furthermore, 92% of the participants stated that they do not receive any financial assistance from relatives. Consequently, 71% of the total study participants expressed the inadequacy and incapacity of their parents to meet their basic needs.

-Financial factor plays a significant role in driving individuals towards deviant behaviours. As stated, 60% of the total study participants do not receive any allowance from their parents, and even among the remaining 40% who do receive allowance, 25% consider it insufficient to cover their daily expenses. This equates to approximately 85% of the total participants experiencing complete inadequacy or insufficiency in meeting their basic needs. Consequently, they are compelled to seek alternative sources and methods to acquire money in order to fulfill these needs, whether through work or other illicit means. This exposes them to engaging in deviant behaviors, ultimately leading them astray.

-Therefore, deprivation, financial hardship, and low wages are major and influential factors that drive juveniles to seek unlawful means to satisfy their psychological and material needs. This, in turn, contributes to the decline in their morals and the deviance of their behaviours.

b- The large size of the family contributes to the occurrence of juvenile delinquency.

Approximately 42% of the total study participants come from families with 5 to 10 members, and 15% of them live with relatives under the same roof. Specifically, 7% have more than five individuals (5), 7% have four individuals (4), and 1% have two individuals (2) living with them. This implies that large family size partially explains the phenomenon, as it leads to the juvenile's tendency not to staying at home and drives them to seek solace on the streets, which provide an escape from the suffocating atmosphere at home. Consequently, they immerse themselves in street environment, which offers conducive conditions for deviant behaviors. Thus, this assumption is supported by the findings of study.

c- The contribution of adverse housing conditions, such as congestion, type, and location in shaping juvenile delinquency is due to the repulsion it creates for the youth to spend prolonged periods at home, particularly when the house is situated in an area characterized by a complete absence of essential life amenities like water, electricity, gas, and proper wastewater drainage systems.

-37% of the total study participants (18% in slum areas and 19% in chaotic construction areas) originate from slum and chaotic construction areas, while 31% come from urban areas, 29% from semi-urban areas, and only 3% from rural areas. This makes rural areas the least significant in terms of producing juvenile delinquency compared to other regions, due to the absence of conducive conditions for delinquent behaviours among juveniles. These areas are characterized either by high population density and overcrowding, as reported by 63%, or by the presence of crimes and deviations, as stated by 94% (of which 36% reported a high recurrence of these crimes, 54% occasionally, and 4% rarely).

-This confirms the significant contribution of residential areas in nurturing and fueling delinquency and crime. These statistics align with the nature of the dwellings in which delinquents live and grow up. Specifically, 37% of the total study participants reside in slum and chaotic informal housing, 29% in social housing, 25% in upgraded housing that is not significantly different from social housing, and 9% in "lahwash" (informal settlements).

-This means that the majority of delinquent juveniles reside in dwellings that lack the most basic amenities. Regarding the characteristic of cramped living spaces, 68% of respondents state that they have small and extremely tight dwellings consisting of three rooms or less (26% have three (3) rooms, 25% have one (1) room, and 17% have two (2) rooms). Adding the variable of large family size further highlights the dire situation experienced by the delinquent juveniles. Approximately 42% of the total study participants come from families ranging from 5 to 10

members, and 15% live with relatives who sometimes amount to an additional five individuals under the same roof as the delinquent. We believe that any dwelling with such specifications is sufficient to increase the likelihood of delinquent individuals living within it engaging in deviant and criminal behaviors. This makes it a strong explanatory factor for the phenomenon, particularly when it interacts with other factors.

Conclusion

Family environment is supposed to be a source of affection and security for juveniles, but field findings indicate a disappointing and alarming situation. Many delinquents are the product of family-related factors that interact and inevitably contribute to the development of delinquent behaviours in juveniles. It is preferable to conclude by briefly summarising the factors that have maintained strength and control in this study, particularly those associated with the family factor, including:

- The significant impact of maladaptive parenting styles, characterized by either authoritarian or permissive parenting, as well as differential treatment and favoritism among children, single parenting, or parental absence resulting from residing away from home or due to bereavement... etc., coupled with the lack of parental monitoring, strongly contributes to the emergence of juvenile delinquency.

- Family environment, which is manifested through social relationship breakdowns such as divorce and particularly death, contributes to the production of the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency.

- Economic hardship and low wages have the most significant influence, as the majority of them belong to economically disadvantaged families that cannot afford meeting the basic needs of the juveniles.

Recommendations and Suggestions

- It is imperative to address the familial circumstances of delinquent juveniles and establish tangible support programmes for their families, and transparent mechanisms and strategies that can effectively assist these households on both social and economic fronts.

- Developing preventive strategies as part of a civilizational project that protect families at different levels, including religious and educational domains, to shield it from the different threats linked to rapid social changes in the era of globalization.

- Conducting scientific studies that delve into the roots of juvenile delinquency and factors leading to it, with a specific focus on the family environment, is essential. Furthermore, promoting continuous monitoring of juvenile behaviours by families should be encouraged

through the media as awareness policy that combats the infiltration of foreign ideologies into the minds of young individuals.

-Inculcating religious values in juveniles and enhancing their religious motivation can be accomplished by solidifying their faith, encouraging regular religious practices, and promoting the reverence for Islamic rituals at the level of educational programs.

-Implementing facilities that prioritise recreational, sports, and artistic activities at different residential areas can offer juveniles opportunities to channel their emotions and participate in constructive pursuits.

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